

Announcing July's SPOT Award Winners

Jim Pate

Mr. Jim Pate has always been my mentor and the person I run to for help with the most complicated technical issues in the field of Radiology. His patience and open-minded attitude always made me feel relaxed around him and I always felt free to ask him any technical question. I notice his staff feels very comfortable around him, and I think this is because he treats them with kindness and respect and expects them to come to him for any professional help they need. His technical expertise and overall professional experience made our section run smoothly and helped us all to develop in learning our job duties. We all look up to him and look forward to coming to work every day. I think he is an excellent Supervisor.

So I would like to nominate Mr. Jim Pate for a SPOT award. I feel that nominating Jim will make us all proud that he got what he deserved and because he is one of the few in our Division with the greatest radiation knowledge. He's a person who would drop anything and give his time and effort to help you out in any technical issue. Also, he is very considerate when it comes to your personal life and any other issue that might possibly affect our work. The reason behind my nominating Jim for a SPOT award is a way of recognizing Jim Pate's great work for our Division, Department and the Public. -Ziad Fahd

I'd like to nominate Jim Pate for a SPOT award. I nominate Jim because he is the person in our Division with the greatest technical expertise in the environmental medium of Radiation and still more because he has always taken the time out of his busy work day to assist those of us who need and have requested technical guidance and assistance from him on more complex radiation physics, safety and compliance issues. I feel that a SPOT award is a good first step toward recognizing Jim Pate's excellence as a member of the LDEQ team! -Russell Clark



Jim Pate receiving his SPOT Award

Concerning Jim Pate: I was Jim's supervisor for a few years and also have shared duties with him in radiation emergency response, after hours Staff Duty Officer for radiation and service as an Assistant Safety Officer for the department. His technical knowledge has increasingly been depended upon and he readily shares it. Jim worked hard as a frontline inspector, always meeting work product goals while formally continuing his education. Now, he holds advanced college degrees in his vocational field and is showing good management skills as a supervisor. He has helped the department earn high marks in the area of radiation emergency preparedness and performed in an excellent matter as a safety officer. - Chris Simms

Jeff Duazat

On July 14, Jeff Dauzat participated in a "live" radio interview on WWL radio in peak drive time on illegal dumping and the department's efforts to curb the activity, mainly in New Orleans East, but also statewide.



Jeff Dauzat receiving his SPOT Award

Also, on July 27 Jeff also handled two TV interviews on the progress made in delisting several Northshore rivers.

Jeff's experience shows in this type of activity and he always handled himself professionally when participating in interviews. - Peggy Hatch

I would like to nominate Jeff Dauzat for a SPOT Award. In July, he conducted a live interview on WWL before his normal working hours. He was on the radio with a host answering questions concerning illegal dumping throughout Louisiana, but mainly in the New Orleans East area. Jeff provided truthful information in a professional manner that educated the many WWL listeners to what DEQ is doing concerning illegal dumping. Jeff went above and beyond by calling in on his off hours. Also, he volunteered to do a live radio show when most people would not.

Jeff also did two TV interviews on water quality issues in the Southeast Region.

Jeff is an asset to the department and plays an important role in the front-loading concept that is crucial to this administration's success.

-Rodney Mallett

Curt Auzenne

I would like to nominate Curt Auzenne for the SPOT Award in recognition of his contributions to LDEQ's Solid Waste Permitting Section. With the issuance of final solid waste permits for Greenpoint, Mt. Zion, Harrelson, Gordon Doerle, and the "Notice of Review" ordered by the Assistant Secretary for Belle Landfill in June and July of 2009, LDEQ has successfully met permitting goals that included court ordered decisions, highly controversial decisions, and public concerns with solid waste permitting. The result of Curt's efforts, reviews, knowledge and experience of 19 years has assisted the Department with solutions, resolutions and issuances of these highly controversial solid waste permits. It has taken a tremendous effort on the part of this permit writer to coordinate with engineers, geologists, enforcement, and legal to achieve these accomplishments. However, I believe Curt Auzenne (Environmental Scientist from 1990 to the present) deserves particular recognition in attainment of these goals and for the following reasons:

- A few examples of Curt's contributions to difficult and important projects, producing exceptionally high quality work under tight deadlines as well as exercising extraordinary initiative include:
- Responding to approximately 1,200 public comments in response to the issuance of Harrelson solid waste permit
- Responding to approximately 500 public comments on Gordon Doerle's solid waste permit as well as preparing a Basis for Decision and coordinating with Legal, in preparation of a court ordered decision



Curt Auzenne receiving his SPOT Award

- Curt continued to assist the Department and the community in his efforts and contributions to the Recycling Program, Envirothon, Camp Challenge, EnvioSchool, ChemFriends, and AWMA. He lends his talents and resources to these programs in addition to his regular job duties.
- Curt often works after hours reviewing public comments, working on Basis for Decisions, compliance issues and other pressing deadlines.
- Curt has worked closely with permit writers during the complicated and extensive permit application review process and facilitated the review of applications and served as a mentor for new permit writers.
- Curt has stepped into the role as leader for solid waste permit writers and management with the recent departure of his supervisor. Curt gladly answers questions and assists internal and external customers with courtesy and prompt responsiveness. Many times Curt works while eating lunch at his desk. He will continue to take phone calls and questions from staff concerning solid waste issues.

· Curt has met all job-related challenges. He leaves his family and work on Fridays and travels to Opelousas, LA to spend every other weekend taking care of his elderly handicapped Mother. Many times he takes his laptop and continues to work.

· Curt may take leave due to illness or to take his elderly Mother to the doctor. His supervisor will call on his personal cell phone and Curt gladly answers and assists in anyway he can.

After 19 years of service and the extraordinary work product and the willingness to assist anyone within the Department or within the community, thanks and recognition should be provided to this LDEQ employee.

Jerri Muller

I would like to nominate Jerri Muller for a DEQ Employee Spot Award. Jerri is an Environmental Project Specialist 2 in the Office of Environmental Services, Permit Support Services Division.

In the few months I have been the supervisor over the Permits Application Administrative Review Group (PAAR) Jerri has proven to be an invaluable asset. As the Air Permit Application EPS she has to process an incredible volume of air permit action requests. Even more impressive is the incredibly quick turnaround time she is able to maintain for this amount of work. She accomplishes the largest of jobs in the most quiet and meticulous manner. She handles any situation that comes up in regard to air permits, and rarely has to ask for help. She takes care of air permit writers and applicants alike, managing to keep everyone happy and meet their needs. After my many years of dealing with air permit writers, in my opinion anyone that can keep them happy deserves one big award. She goes above and beyond the expectations of her job to see that all her work is completed properly.

Jerri is always willing to help others out and take on new projects as they arise. In addition to her

voluminous workload she also manages to help process between 4,000 to 5,000 pieces of mail per month in the OES mailroom. She helps to have the mail routed quickly and efficiently. Because of this excellent work ethic she is able to complete her work as well as offer her assistance to others. She is reliable and will perform any task that is requested. She has lots of energy and enthusiasm in performing this incredible amount of work.

Jerri has graciously provided me with invaluable assistance during my time as the new supervisor over the PAAR unit. On the numerous times I have had to ask her for guidance, she was extremely and enthusiastically helpful. The best thing about Jerri is her cheerful and positive attitude. When there is extra work to be done, she jumps in. She is always concerned about her coworkers, and is happy to lend a hand when anyone needs it. She's a pleasure to be around, and often takes on the job of improving group morale.



Jerri Muller receiving her SPOT Award